Statement-IV

Outflow of workers-Skilled/Unskilled and Male/Female in 2004, 2005 and 2006

Year	Skilled	Unskilled	Total	Male	Female
2004	4,63,502	11,458	4,74,960	4,71,066	3894
2005	5,28,122	20,731	5,48,853	5,34,523	14,330
2006	6,51,893	25,019	6,76,912	6,64,256	12,656

Rights of immigrant workers

1096. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any international covenant or International Labour Organisation (ILO) guidelines protecting the rights of immigrant workers against exploitation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has ascertained the facts regarding the protest by Indian workers in Dubai against their working conditions; and

(d) whether our Mission in UAE has ascertained the working conditions of Indian workers and has taken up the issue with local Government?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The International Labour Organisation in its 60th session in 1975 adopted the Migrant Workers (Supplementary Provisions) Convention, 1975, concerning migrations in abusive conditions and promoting equality of opportunity and treatment of migrants. Other relevant ILO conventions and recommendations on the subject are Migration for Employment Convention and Recommendation (Revised) 1949; Protection of Migrant Workers (Underdeveloped countries) Recommendation, 1955; Employment Policy Convention and Recommendation, 1964; Employment Service Convention and Recommendation, 1948; Fee-Charging Employment Agencies Convention (Revised), 1949 and the Migrant Workers Recommendation, 1975. These deal with matters such as regulation of the recruitment of migrant workers, introduction and placing of the migrant workers, provision of accurate information relating to migration, minimum conditions to be enjoyed by migrants in transit and on arrival, adoption of an active employment policy and international collaboration in these matters.

The conventions were to be binding only upon those Members States whose ratifications have been registered with the ILO. However, the Government of India have not ratified these conventions.

(c) Yes, Sir, there were recently two instances in Dubai, where workers, with majority of them being Indians, went on strike against their employers in demand of increase in their wages etc. In one case relating to M/s. Pauling Middle East Company, almost all the workers have rejoined work on assurance by the employer of not penalizing them in any manner. The workers guilty of violence (including Indians) have already been deported to their countries.

In 2nd case of M/s. Arabtec Construction Company, most of the workers resumed work after the company announced increase in salary.

(d) Yes, Sir. The Mission officials are in constant touch with the local Government with regard to the issues of salary of workers, penalizing the employer for violating workers rights and regular inspections of the labour camps to check the living conditions of the workers etc.

Kidnapping of Indian workers in Nigeria

1097. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that recently three Indian petrochemical workers were kidnapped from Nigeria's oil capital Port Harcourt by suspected militants;

(b) if so, the reasons of their kidnap and whether they have been traced, so far;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to rescue those Indians from the clutches of militants; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) Yes, Sir 12 Indian nationals were kidnapped by militants in 2 separate incidents on May 19 and June 1, 2007 in Port Harcourt.

(b) The reason of the kidnapping is the prevalent militancy in the Niger Delta region where militants kidnap expats and Nigerians alike.

(c) and (d) The Mission in collaboration with the local Government and security agencies made extensive efforts to secure the safe release of the Indians kidnapped. They were eventually released on June 11 and June 15, 2007.

Indians in Jails of Gulf countries

1098. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Indian nationals are languishing in Jails in Gulf countries who are victims of recruitment agencies in the country;

(b) if so, the number of cases reported;

(c) the details of the steps taken for the release of these people; and

(d) the details of steps taken against the fraudulent agencies and to ensure the safety of the emigrants?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Delegation to European countries

1099. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether delegations under the leadership of the Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs visited European countries;